

1 TITLE: EASY JAR OPENER

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3 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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5 (1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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7 The present invention generally relates to jar openers and, more particularly pertains to a device with  
8 a handle while having an attached adjustable strap so as to be able to wrap around and engage any size  
9 cap on a jar.

10 (2) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

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12 There have been numerous patents granted in the field of jar openers such as US patent #4,766,781  
13 where two conical members create a means for remove the cap of a jar. In US patent #4,532,831 a jar  
14 opener is shown comprising a cord looped around the cap with a handle. The cord is twisted which  
15 applies pressure to the cap and thereafter removes the cap of the jar. In US patent #4,306,470 the  
16 invention has an elongated handle with a semicircular jaw at first end and a second jaw on the other end.  
17 When closed around the cap the jaws provide enough pressure so as to open a jar. In US Design patent  
18 #D440,842 S the invention provides two adjustable jaws which grip the cap on two opposite sides. A  
19 handle is provided so as to grasp and twist the invention thereby removing the cap of a jar.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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22 In view of the forgoing disadvantages inherent in the know jar openers now present in the prior art,  
23 the present invention provides an improved jar opener for people with arthritis. Each uses the same basic  
24 principal. As such, the general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in  
25 greater detail, is to provide a new and improved jar opening apparatus and method of use which has all  
26 the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

27 To attain this, the present invention provides a jar opener which is designed with easy handling for  
28 people with arthritis. The present invention also provides a larger than normal handle with one end being  
29 flat and non functional while the opposite end is indented into a concave dish design, with a gripping  
30 teeth thereon, so as to accommodate and engage with the ribbed edge of any cap on a jar. An adjustable  
31 gripping strap is provided with the inside being of a rough serrated surface. The rough side of the strap  
32 grips and mates with the ribbed texture of any jar cap. One end of the gripping strap is permanently  
33 attached to one side of the handle. The adjustable gripping strap loosely wraps around the cap of a jar  
34 while the opposite end of the strap aligns and tightens onto the opposite side of the handle by a  
35 releasable securing means, such as VELCRO. The user then grasps the handle of the present invention  
36 with one hand and uses their opposite hand to stabilize the jar. The user simple applies grasping pressure  
37 on the handle of the present invention and pushes in a counter clockwise direction thereby loosening the  
38 cap while rotating the cap of the jar to the open position. All caps on jars are removed by twisting in a  
39 counter clockwise while the tightening is accomplished by twisting in a clockwise direction. The size of  
40 the handle is specifically designed to be larger than normal. This increased size allows a person with  
41 arthritic to easily wrap their hand and fingers around the handle thereby creating a better grip so as to  
42 easily turn the handle thereby opening the cap of any size jar. The shape of the handle ranges from round  
43 to square or hexagon. The more edges the easier it will be to grip the handle; such as a hexagon shaped  
44 handle. The handle is approximately 5 to 6 inches long and approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch to 3 inches in  
45 diameter; preferred is 2 inches in diameter. The handle of the present invention is best manufactured by  
46 injection molding. Within the molding procedure a recessed area is built into one side which  
47 accommodates one end of the gripping strap. A permanent attachment means secures the strap to the  
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1 handle at this position. The strap may be selected from a rubber, plastic or a nylon material with one side  
2 being smooth while the other side has a rough serrated surface so as to be able to mate or grasp the  
3 rough outer edge of the cap for the jar. The strap is sufficiently long enough to be wrapped around any  
4 size circumference of a cap. The strap length ranges from 6 inches to 20 inches. Preferred is  
5 approximately 12 inches. The strap must be long enough to wrap around the complete cap of the jar and  
6 return to the handle and be secured onto the handle by a releasable securing means.

7 The present invention has a preferred list of component parts;

- 8 (1) A gripping handle;
- 9 (2) An adjustable strap;
- 10 (3) A permanent attachment means for the first end of the strap to the handle;
- 11 (4) A releasable securing means for the loose end of the strap.

12 The present invention also has a method of use sequence for removing the cap of any jar:

- 13 (a) Wrap the provided strap around the outer edge of the cap on the jar;
- 14 (b) Secure the strap back onto the opposite side of the handle;
- 15 (c) Grasp the present invention by the handle with one hand;
- 16 (d) Grasp and stabilize the selected jar with the opposite hand;
- 17 (e) Push the handle in an operational counter clockwise direction until the cap is in the open position;
- 18 (f) Release the strap from the handle securing means thereby releasing the cap from within the grasp of  
19 the strap.

20 The present invention is designed for easy use especially for people with arthritis with limited use of  
21 their hands and fingers. The larger than normal handle increases the leverage factor for an easy to use  
22 invention. The strap is long enough so as to accommodate any size cap. The releasable securing means  
23 may optionally be selected from a material such as VELCRO which have hook and pile surfaces. One  
24 surface of the VELCRO would be attached to the handle surface, such as the pile surface, and the other  
25 surface of the VELCRO would be the hook surface which is attached to the inside surface of the strap.  
26 Both would be attached to the respective surface by means of a sticky tape means.

27 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the jar opener apparatus of the invention in order that  
28 the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present  
29 contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the present  
30 invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims  
31 appended hereto.

32 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the present invention in detail, it is to be  
33 understood that the present invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and  
34 the arrangement of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings.  
35 The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways,  
36 also, it is to be fully understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the  
37 purpose of description and should not be regarded as limited.

38 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is  
39 based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for  
40 carrying out the several purpose of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be  
41 regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and  
42 scope of the present invention.

43 Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and  
44 the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not  
45 familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the  
46 nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the present application. The abstract is neither intended  
47 to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be  
48 limited as to the scope of the present invention in any way.

49 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar opener which has  
50 the advantage of the prior art devises and none of the disadvantages.

1 It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar opener which may be  
2 easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

3 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved jar opener which is of a  
4 durable and reliable construction.

5 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener which is  
6 susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly  
7 is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such jar opening  
8 apparatus economically available to the buying public.

9 Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener which  
10 provides the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while  
11 simultaneously overcoming some of the advantages normally associated therewith.

12 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved jar opener operable  
13 from a novice's level.

14 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved system for opening a  
15 jar.

16 These together with other objects of the present invention, along with the various features of novelty  
17 which characterize the present invention, are pointed out with a particularity in the claims annexed to  
18 and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the present invention, its operating  
19 and installation advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the  
20 accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of  
21 the present invention.

## 22 23 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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25 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become  
26 apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description  
27 makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

28 Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the invention, in solid lines, placed around the cap of a jar, in  
29 dotted lines, and the user's hand, in dotted lines, positioned on the handle of the invention.

30 Fig. 2 is a flat top view of the invention

31 Fig. 3 is a top view of the strap.

32 Fig. 4 is a flat view of the rough side of the strap.

33 Fig. 5 is a close up flat view of outer edge of the jar and the gripping teeth end of the handle.

34 Fig. 6 is a top view of the hook and pile surface of the VELCRO releasable attachment means.

## 35 36 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

37 The present invention in Fig. 1 presents the jar opener 1 showing the position of the user's hand 15,  
38 in dotted lines, grasped around the handle 9 pushing in a general counter clockwise direction 2. The top  
39 of the strap 3 is shown with the outside of the strap 5 wrapped around the jar 6 with cap 7. One end of  
40 strap 3 is permanently attached to the handle 9 by securing means 8. The gripping teeth 10 of the handle  
41 9 for the jar opener 1 mates with the rough edge of cap 7 thereby creating a non-slip means to enable the  
42 jar opener 1 to remove the cap 7 from jar 6. The strap 3 is releasably secured by securing means 4 on  
43 handle 9. The loose end of strap 3 slides into and through securing means 4 thereby securing the strap 3  
44 so as not to slip while the strap 3 is place around the cap 7. Fig. 2 is a flat view of the jar opener 1 with  
45 handle 9 with strap 3 permanently attached by securing means 8 to handle 9 while the loose end of strap  
46 3 is releasable secured to handle 9 by securing means 4. The end gripping teeth 10 are shown at one end  
47 on handle 9. As in Fig. 1 the releasable securing means for the loose end of strap 3 may optionally be  
48 VELCRO. Fig. 3 is a top view of the strap 3 showing the rough gripping surface 12 on one side of strap  
49 3. Fig. 4 is a flat view of strap 3 with rough gripping surface 12. Fig. 5 is a close up detailed view of the  
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1 handle 9 with the gripping teeth 10 and the jar cap 7 with gripping surface 11. When gripping teeth 10  
2 come in contact with the caps outer gripping surface 11 the two mutually mate and create a means for  
3 the jar to be stabilized in a stationary position to the handle 9. This stops any slippage until the strap is  
4 attached to the handle. The strap now performs the balance of the pressure so as to crack and move the  
5 cap 7 to an open position. Fig. 6 is a top view of the two pieces of VELCRO 18 showing pile surface 22  
6 and hook surface 20. Both pieces of VELCRO 18 show a sticky tape on the outer surface 24 which may  
7 optionally be used as the releasable securing means within the scope of the present invention. One  
8 VELCRO surface would be attached to the inside surface of the strap and the opposite VELCRO surface  
9 would be attached to the side of the handle.

10 The scope within the present invention has designed a very simple jar opener which allows people  
11 with arthritis to open a jar.

12 As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from  
13 the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation  
14 will be provided.

15 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional  
16 relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function  
17 and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in  
18 the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the  
19 specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

20 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further,  
21 since numerous modifications and changes will be readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not  
22 desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and  
23 accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the  
24 invention.

25 What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as  
26 follows:

- 27 1. An easy to use jar opener for people with arthritis comprising, in combination;  
28 a jar; and  
29 a cap of a jar;  
30 said jar opener comprising, in combination;  
31 a handle means;  
32 an adjustable gripping strap means;  
33 a permanent attachment means;  
34 a releasable attachment means;  
35 said opener has a preferred list of component parts;  
36 said opener has a method of use sequence for removing the cap of said jar and said opener has a  
37 predetermined operational direction so as to open and remove said cap of said jar.
- 38 2. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cap has a plurality of ribbed edges around the out  
39 side surface which mate with said gripping teeth of said handle thereby stabilizing said jar to said handle  
40 while said strap is being positioned around said cap of the present invention.
- 41 3. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said handle means comprises;  
42 a preferred handle length of approximately 5 inches;  
43 said handle has a wide range of shapes such as round, square and hexagon; preferred is hexagon  
44 said handle ranges in diameter from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch to 3 inches preferred is approximately 2 inches; while  
45 said handle is preferred to be manufactured by injection molding with the intent to easily be used by a  
46 person with arthritic hands and fingers;  
47 while one end of said handle is flat and non functional while the opposite end is indented in a  
48 recessed concave dish design with gripping teeth built thereon so as to accommodate and mate with said  
49 ribbed edge of any said cap on said jar;  
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1 said handle accepts and permanently retains one end of said strap on one side of said handle while  
2 said handle also accepts and releasably secures the opposite end of said strap onto the opposite side of  
3 said handle.

4 4. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said gripping strap means;  
5 is wide enough so as to accommodate any side cap;  
6 said adjustable strap is long enough so as to accommodate any size cap while wrapping around  
7 said complete cap of said jar and return to said handle thereafter being secured onto said handle by said  
8 releasable securing means; said length is preferred to be 12 inches having been selected from a range of  
9 between 6 inches to 20 inches in said length;  
10 while the inside of said strap has a ribbed gripping texture so as to align, mate and grip with said  
11 ribbed surface of said cap;  
12 while one end of said strap permanently attaches to said handle and the opposite end releasably  
13 attaches to said handle;  
14 said strap is selected from a rubber, plastic or nylon material.

15 5. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said opener has a preferred list of component parts  
16 comprising;

- 17 (1) A gripping handle;  
18 (2) An adjustable strap;  
19 (3) A permanent attachment means for one end of said strap to said handle;  
20 (4) A releasable securing means for the opposite end of said strap to said handle.

21 6. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said jar opener has a method of use sequence for  
22 removing said cap of any said jar:

- 23 (a) Wrap the provided strap around the outer edge of the cap on the jar;  
24 (b) Secure the strap back onto the opposite side of the handle;  
25 (c) Grasp the present invention by the handle with one hand;  
26 (d) Grasp and stabilize the selected jar with the opposite hand;  
27 (e) Push the handle in a counter clockwise direction until the cap is in the open position;  
28 (f) Release the strap from the handle securing means thereby also releasing the cap from within the  
29 grasp of the strap; said invention thereby creates a functional and easy to use jar opener.

30 7. The invention as claimed in claim 1 wherein said opener has a predetermined operational direction  
31 so as to open and remove said cap said direction being push said present invention in a counter  
32 clockwise direction.

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